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For Zion's Herald.

LETTER FROM REV. J. M. BUCKLEY.

A SKETCH OF A TOUR IN IRELAND, CONCLUDED.

If my purse had possessed the miraculous power imparted to the widow's cruse, and if the ancient maxim, "tempus fugit," had proved false, I should have remained in Dublin much longer than I did; but neither of these hypotheses being true, I was constrained to order my course in harmony with the "stuphorn things," which, under the unassuming name of "facts," often undermine our most splendid castles, blast our hopes, thwart our plans, and mock our desires, and turning my face northward, I took the cars for the ancient town of

DROGHEDA.

The town is situated on both banks of the river Boyne, a beautiful stream, navigable for small vessels. The viaduct near the railway station is one of the most costly and imposing architectural works in the British Empire.

The battle-field memorable for the fierce conflict between James the Second and his son-in-law, William, Prince of Orange, in which the latter was victorious, thirty thousand troops being brought into action on each side, is on the banks of the Boyne, but a little way from the town. It was decisive, and fought July 1st, 1690. Within a few miles are the ruins of Monasterboe Abbey and Slane Castle.

The aspect of the town is very uninteresting, and its claims to the distinction of being the dirtiest place in the world, rival those of the city of Washington.

There are several large mills here, the proprietors of which tyrannize over their operatives like slave masters.

I met the women going to their work; they were bare-headed, armed, necked, footed and legged, and a squadron looking set.

At the hotel I ordered for dinner a mutton chop with potatoes, and was furnished an opportunity of testing my digestive machinery in more than one way. The waiter was a dirty clothe-hopper, whose hands, neck, face and apron precisely resembled in color and other adventurous circumstances those of a journeyman cobbler, who never thought of cleanliness.

When the dinner was brought on, it consisted of a very small chop and nine huge potatoes. An old gentleman near me who was equally provided with the Irishman's sine qua non, ingurgitated six, and desirous to conform to the customs of the country, where no moral principle was involved, I essayed to do the same, but soon demonstrating that great principle of natural philosophy, that two bodies can occupy the same space at the same time, I was compelled to relinquish the attempt and acknowledge defeat. In Drogheda the streets were dirty, the houses were dirty, the hotel was dirty, the servants were dirty, and even the sunlight from heaven did not seem of a pure white, while fetid odors literally "floated upon the air," and as soon as possible I fled the town, and hastened to

DUNDALK.

Here Edward Bruce was crowned king of Ireland. The scenery in the neighborhood, of which the Mourne Mountains form the background, is attractive, but the town is without a single feature of interest.

On a monument in the parish churchyard I read the following inscription: "As a tribute to the memory of Robert Burns, the national bard of Scotland, and in respect for the memory of his eldest sister Agnes, whose remains are entombed here, this monument has been erected by his friends and admirers."

The greater part of the time I passed in this place was devoted to a tour of inspection among the huts and hovels of the peasantry. The filth which they contain is indescribable. Hogs, chickens, dogs and cats dwell together in loathly intimacy with the houses with the peasants, besides an endless variety of animals not so apparent to the naked eye, while the human occupants were in a condition of nastiness only to be accounted for upon the assumption that they had all of the hydrophobia except the convulsions. But the collection of these scenes is emotive in its tendency, and I will dwell upon them no longer. From Dundalk I traveled fifty miles to

BELFAST.

As we left the former place, the bay of Dundalk, with many ships and small craft upon its quiet surface, was in full view, and formed a scene of beauty worthy the pencil of an artist or the pen of a poet. Soon we entered a deep cut some miles in length, through solid rock of the hardest and most flinty character; suddenly emerging, a landscape of surpassing loveliness appeared before us. The horizon was bounded by the lofty range of the Mourne Mountains, the highest summit of which is Slieve Donard, nearly twenty-five hundred feet high, and extending over a gentle slope five or six miles in width, and ten or twelve in length, were harvest fields of yellow grain, partly cut and stacked, and partly standing. The rain which had been falling for the greater part of the day had ceased, the sky was perfectly clear, and the rays of the setting sun fell upon the golden grain, producing a softened tint, which the pencil of Turner or Rubens could never represent on canvas. Women were scattered through the fields at work, and the whitewashed huts of the peasant added to the beauty of the picture. Here the finest conceptions I had ever formed of the Irish landscapes were fully equalled. But the rapid motion of the train soon carried us beyond the hills, and our way for a number of miles lay through a more uninteresting region—a tract of bogs—in which I saw many men and women at work taking out the turf or peat, which forms so large a part of the fuel of the country. At 10 P.M. we reached Belfast, and drove to the Imperial Hotel, the best in the city, of which it is sufficient to say that it is equal to the average of American hotels in the style of its accommodations, and unfortunately for the tourist, much superior to them in its charges.

The principal streets of Belfast are remarkably straight, wide and clean, and lined by buildings of a superior order, many of which are apparently new. Indeed, Belfast very much resembles an American city, and on inquiry I learned that its population had doubled during the past thirty years. Its chief business is linen manufacture; but there are large cotton mills, and considerable capital is invested in the manufacture of leather. There is a large export trade carried on with England by way of Liverpool, and with Scotland by way of Glasgow. At the Belfast Asylum for the insane, one of the most noted in Ireland, I witnessed an interesting and novel sight:

"The Giant's Pier the war of the peasants braves; Atar projecting from the basaltic way, Of clustering columns wedged in dense array, With skill so like, yet so surpassing art, That reacheth not the height if it stands, The work of mortal or immortal hands."

The guide did well, and I paid him three shillings.

Every individual with whom I had any dealings in this vicinity was a fearful liar. Before returning to Port Rush, I went to the most extended point of the promontory of old Bengor, and warned myself by a peat fire in the most northerly house in all Ireland.

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